

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UK, US, XL

SUBJECT: PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MR. WILSON TO THE PRIME
MINISTERS/PREMIERS OF JAMAICA, TRINIDAD, GUYANA,
AND THE ASSOCIATED STATES.

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRIME
MINISTER WILSON TO PRIME MINISTERS/PREMIERS OF JAMAICA,
TRINIDAD, GUYANA, AND THE ASSOCIATED STATES REGARDING
FUTURE CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS OF ANGUILLA.

2. QUOTE: IT IS NOW EIGHT YEARS SINCE THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN ANGUILLA AND THE OTHER PARTS OF THE ASSOCIATED
STATE STARTED TO GIVE US ALL CAUSE FOR CONCERN. BUT I HOPE
THAT WE MAY NOW BE IN SIGHT OF A SOLUTION.

3. AS YOU MAY KNOW WE WERE COMMITTED BY UNDERTAKINGS
GIVEN BY HER MAJESTY'S MINISTERS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
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TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF ANGUILLA THREE YEARS AFTER THE EN-

ACTMENT OF THE ANGUILLA ACT 1971- SINCE LAST YEAR THERE-
FORE WE HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERING THE VIEWS OF THOSE
DIRECTLY CONCERNED AND TRYING TO FIND MEANS OF MEETING
THEIR WISHES THROUGH CONSULTATION WITH THE PREMIER AND
MINISTERS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND WITH THE ANGUILLANS.

4. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE FOR OUR PART HAVE APPROACHED
THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH A GENUINE DESIRE TO SEEK A WAY

FORWARD WHICH WOULD GO AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO RECONCILE
THE VIEWS AND ASPIRATIONS OF ALL PARTIES. ON THE ONE
HAND, WE HAVE RESPECTED THE VIEW HELD BY MR. BRADSHAW AND
OTHER COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING FRAG-
MENTATION IN THE AREA. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE TO TAKE
ACCOUNT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S UNDERTAKING THAT THE
ANGUILLANS WOULD NOT BE FORCED TO LIVE UNDER AN ADMINIS-
TRATION THEY DID NOT WANT, AND HAVE THEREFORE HAD TO LOOK
FOR A SPECIAL FORM OF ADMINISTRATION IN THE INTERESTS OF
GOOD GOVERNMENT.

5. IN ALL OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ANGUILLANS IT WAS AP-
PARENT THAT THEY WERE TOTALLY OPPOSED TO ANY SUGGESTION
THAT ANGUILLA SHOULD REVERT TO THE STATUS OF A FULLY INTE-
GRATED CONSTITUENT PART OF THE STATE SUBJECT IN ALL MAT-
TERS TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT. INDEED THE ANGUILLANS
PRESSED US VERY HARD FOR FINAL AND FORMAL SEPARATION OF
ANGUILLA FROM THE STATE. I NEED HARDLY SAY THAT WE FULLY
UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES SUCH A CHANGE WOULD PRESENT
FOR MR. BRADSHAW.

6. IN RECENT TALKS IN LONDON, HOWEVER, WE HAVE AFTER DIF-
FICULT NEGOTIATION SECURED THE ANGUILLAN LEADERS' AGREE-
MENT TO A COMPROMISE WHICH WILL PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF
THE STATE WHILE A NEW CONSTITUTION TO BE MADE BY MEANS OF
A SELF-CONTAINED ORDER IN COUNCIL UNDER THE ANGUILLA ACT
1971 WILL PROVIDE FOR ANGUILLA A LARGER MEASURE OF AUTON-
OMY IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

7. I ASK YOU TO BELIEVE THAT IN FACING THIS PROBLEM WE
HAVE HONESTLY SOUGHT TO FIND A SOLUTION WHICH MIGHT
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SATISFY THE ASPIRATIONS OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE STATE
WHILST PROVIDING FOR PEACEFUL CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.
I CAN SEE NO BETTER WAY OF ACHIEVING THIS THAN THROUGH THE
COMPROMISE ARRANGEMENTS WE HAVE REACHED. I DEEPLY REGRET
THAT MR. BRADSHAW HAS FELT UNABLE TO ENDORSE THESE PRO-
POSALS. I AM SENDING HIM A FURTHER MESSAGE, EXPLAINING
THAT I FEEL OUR COURSE MUST BE TO GO AHEAD WITH THEM. WE
INTEND TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ACCORDINGLY ON FRIDAY 30

MAY. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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